

EFFECT OF STEROIDS ON NMDA RECEPTORS DEPENDS ON SUBUNIT
COMPOSITION

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method for identifying a subunit
5 specific modulator of the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)
receptor. The method involves providing a plurality of NMDA
receptors which differ in their subunit identity. The
receptors are contacted with a neurotransmitter recognition
site ligand in the presence and absence of a candidate
10 modulator. Receptor activity is then assayed, with an
increase or decrease in activity in at least one, but not
all members of the plurality of NMDA receptors, in the
presence but not the absence of a candidate modulator, being
an indication that the candidate modulator is a subunit
15 specific modulator. The subunit identity of the subset of
the NMDA receptors to determine the subunit specificity of
the candidate modulator. Various combinations of NMDA
receptor subunits are provided.